

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 L-03 EB-07 CU-02 /059 W

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P 291523Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9964

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION JULY 31 WITH BULGARIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A) STATE 176428; B) SOFIA 1544

1. SOME BILATERAL POINTS I HOPE YOU WILL RAISE IN YOUR
CONVERSATION WITH MLADENOV:

A. DIVIDED FAMILIES. YOU MIGHT SAY WE ARE STILL AWAIT-
ING THE "REEXAMINATION, IN A SYMPATHETIC SPIRIT AND ON A
CASE-BY-CASE BASIS" OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WHICH HE FORECAST
A YEAR AGO, JUST BEFORE VICE PREMIER POPOV CAME TO THE US.
WE ALSO HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV TOLD
SECRETARY DENT THAT "THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM" IN LETTING
ELDERLY BULGARIANS JOIN FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE US. THERE HAS
BEEN FAVORABLE ACTION ON ONLY TWO CASES. A SMALL, NEEDLESS
IRRITANT, INVOLVING WELL UNDER 100 PEOPLE, THAT SHOULD BE
DISPOSED OF.

B. TRADE. MLADENOV MAY POINT TO RECENT EXPAN-
SION OF TRADE. IF HE DOES, THIS IS AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND HIM THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN
PRESENT TRADE LEGISLATION THAT NEED GIVE BULGARIA PAIN
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SINCE -- ASIDE FROM HANDFUL OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES --

IT HAS NO EMIGRATION PROBLEM SO FAR AS THE TRADE ACT IS CONCERNED. (ITS TREATMENT OF JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II IS RECOGNIZED AS EXEMPLARY AMONG GERMANY'S SATELLITES. AND ALL BULGARIAN JEWS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE DID SO IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORLD WAR II.)

C. CULTURAL RELATIONS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT BULGARIA COULD DO, BY WAY OF IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF CSCE BASKET III, TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE IN THIS AREA. UNDER OUR FREE SYSTEM, THE DOOR IS WIDE OPEN TO BULGARIA TO GIVE CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS IN AMERICA; BUT WE CAN DO NOTHING IN BULGARIA WITHOUT COOPERATION OF THEIR AUTHROITIES, WHICH IS SPOTTY AT BEST. HERE IS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH MLADENOV CAN DEMONSTRATE DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US.

2. MLADENOV IS A SPECIALIST IN AIRY GENERALITIES, BUT CAN BE MADE TO FOCUS ON SPECIFICS.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, TRADE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA01559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750262-0365
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750712/aaaaakqf.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 176428, 75 SOFIA 1544
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION JULY 31 WITH BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU, (KISINGER, HENRY A), (MLADENOV, PETUR)
To: HELSINKI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006